

REMARKS

Claims 1-9, 11-16 and 18-21 are pending in this application. Of these pending claims, claims 1-9, 11-16 and 18-21 stand rejected.

The foregoing amendments and following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the outstanding office action, and are believed to place the application in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

Claim 1 includes the feature of a heater being operatively associated with the media support through a conductive path that is operable to conduct heat from the heater to the media support. In other words, the operative association of the heater with the media support in claim 1 is accomplished through the conductive path which is operable to conduct heat from the heater to the media support. Support for this feature can be found on at least page 2, lines 26 and 27; page 6, lines 5-10, 27 and 28; and page 7, lines 10-12, of Applicants' specification and in the following paragraphs of the corresponding application publication: paragraphs [0007] last sentence; [0028]; [0032] first sentence; and [0034] first sentence. As such, Applicants submit that claim 1 complies with the written description requirement. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, rejection of Claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-9, 11-13, 16, 18-19 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by the Fuseya et al. ('795) reference.

Independent claim 1 includes the feature of a heater, positioned spaced apart from a media support, being operatively associated with the media support through a conductive path operable to conduct heat from the heater to the media support. Applicants respectfully submit that the prior art cited above does not disclose this feature.

Independent claim 19 includes the feature of a plurality of heater extensions, each of the plurality of heater extensions being in contact with a media support, each of the plurality of heater extensions being operatively

associated with one of a plurality of heaters, wherein heat generated by the plurality of heaters is conducted to a curved surface of the media support through the plurality of heater extensions. Applicants respectfully submit that the prior art cited above does not disclose this feature.

In this regard, Applicants submit that the Fuseya et al. ('795) reference discloses a fixing device 108 that accomplishes localized heat production in fixing roller 127 using induction, paragraphs [0072] through [0077] of the Fuseya et al. ('795) reference.

As disclosed by the Fuseya et al. ('795) reference, a high frequency magnetic flux generated by a high frequency current supplied from an excitation circuit to an electromagnetic induction coil 30, including a magnetic material core 9, produces an eddy current in a fixing roller 127 that includes an electromagnetic induction heat generating member. However, the electromagnetic induction heat generating member is fixing roller 127 because eddy current induced in fixing roller 127 by electromagnetic induction coil unit 30 generates heat directly in fixing roller 127, paragraphs [0075] and [0076].

A toner image is fixed using a combination of heat and pressure. The heat is supplied by fixing roller 127. The pressure is supplied from fixing roller 127 and elastic pressure roller 128, paragraphs [0077] and [0073].

Fixing roller 127 is hollow and rotatably positioned in fixing device 108, paragraphs [0072] and [0074]. Induction coil 30, including magnetic material core 9, is inserted into fixing roller 127 and is non-rotatably disposed in place, paragraph [0075].

As such, induction coil 30, as disclosed by the Fuseya et al. ('795) reference, is not a heater because it is the electromagnetic induction heat generating member of fixing roller 127 that produces heat. In fact, excessive heating of induction coil 30 can reduce the heating efficiency of fixing roller 127, paragraph [0010]. Additionally, magnetic material core 9, as disclosed by the Fuseya et al. ('795) reference, is not an extension because induction coil 30, including magnetic material core 9, generates or concentrates magnetic flux.

However, even if induction coil 30 could be considered a heater, there is no conductive path operable to conduct heat from the heater to the media support disclosed by the Fuseya et al. ('795) reference. In fact, a gap exists between induction coil 30 and fixing roller 127, see FIG. 2. A gap also exists between

magnetic material core 9 and fixing roller 127. As such, magnetic material core 9 is not an extension. These gaps allow fixing roller 127 to rotate after induction coil 30 is inserted into fixing roller 127 and non-rotatably disposed in place.

In contrast, Applicants' invention accomplishes heat transfer using conduction, see, for example, paragraphs [0007], [0026], [0028], and [0034] of the application publication of Applicants' invention.

As such, independent claim 1 states that a heater, positioned spaced apart from a media support, is operatively associated with the media support through a conductive path operable to conduct heat from the heater to the media support. It can not be said that this feature of Applicants' invention is disclosed by the Fuseya et al. ('795) reference. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-9, 11-13, 16, 18, and 21 depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 1. As such, claims 2-9, 11-13, 16, 18, and 21 are considered patentable for at least the same reasons set forth above which state a basis for the allowance of claim 1.

Additionally, independent claim 19 includes a plurality of heater extensions, each of the plurality of heater extensions being in contact with a media support, each of the plurality of heater extensions being operatively associated with one of the plurality of heaters, wherein heat generated by the plurality of heaters is conducted to a curved surface of the media support through the plurality of heater extensions. It can not be said that this feature of Applicants' invention is disclosed by the Fuseya et al. ('795) reference. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection of claim 19 is respectfully requested.

Claim 20 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by the Steele ('292) reference.

Independent Claim 20 includes the feature of conducting heat from a source of heat through an extension to a surface of a support, the surface of the support being contactable with an article. Applicants submit that the prior art cited above does not disclose this feature.

In this regard, Applicants submit that the Steele ('292) reference discloses a heating station 31 that includes a radiant heater 43 (Fig. 2; col. 6, line 61 through col. 7, line 15). Alternatively, a radiant heater 47 can be provided at a

loading station (Fig. 3; col. 7, lines 18-30). As such, the Steele ('292) reference discloses an apparatus that accomplishes heat transfer by radiating heat from a source, commonly referred to as radiation.

Additionally, the Steele ('292) reference discloses that a source of heated air can replace the radiant heaters (col. 7, lines 37-43). As such, the Steele ('292) reference discloses an apparatus that accomplishes heat transfer using air heated by a source, commonly referred to as convection.

The Steele ('292) reference also discloses that a heated platen surface can replace the heaters described above but does not provide details on how heating of the platen surface is accomplished (col. 7, lines 44-47).

In contrast, Applicants' invention accomplishes heat transfer using conduction from a source of heat through an extension to a surface of a support, see, for example, paragraphs [0007], [0026], [0028], [0032], and [0034] of the application publication of Applicants' invention.

As such, claim 20 includes conducting heat from a source of heat through an extension to a surface of a support. It can not be said that the Steele ('292) reference discloses this feature of Applicants' invention. This is true even when it is assumed that the heated platen surface described above is accomplished using conduction because the Steele ('292) reference does not disclose conducting heat through an extension in order to heat the surface of the platen. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection of Claim 20 is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 14-15 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Schwiebert ('668) reference in view of the Hudson ('509) reference.

Claims 14 and 15 depend indirectly from claim 1. As such, Applicants' submit that claims 14 and 15 are considered patentable for at least the reasons set forth in Applicants' response mailed November 8, 2005, which state a basis for the allowance of claim 1 over the Schwiebert ('668) reference.

In the event the Examiner intended to reject claims 14 and 15 using the combination of the Fuseya et al. ('795) reference in view of the Hudson ('509) reference, Applicants' submit that claims 14 and 15, depending from claim 1, are

considered patentable for at least the reasons set forth above which state a basis for the allowance of claim 1 over the Fuseya et al. ('795) reference.

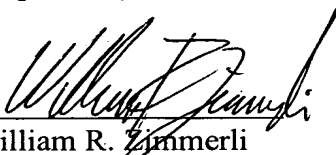
Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection of Claims 14 and 15 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that, in view of the above amendments and remarks, this application is now in condition for allowance, prompt notice of which is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned in the event that a phone interview will expedite prosecution of this application towards allowance.

Respectfully submitted,


William R. Zimmerli
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Registration No. 45,287

WRZ/lid
Rochester, NY 14650
Telephone: (585) 588-2758
Facsimile: (585) 477-4646

If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.